

but we also expect to have those needs met by client contracts, by understandings between the state and the local providers that we will, in fact, make some changes in the system to try and correct some problems. But instead, because the language was taken out of the appropriations bill, the message we're sending is, yes, we had a problem; no, we don't want to do much about it right now, and please send us the money. And that's not a message that I feel very comfortable with. And so I have very mixed feelings. I do not want to see these families and these individuals dropped off of services. I am very concerned about that. On the other hand, I am not too happy with the way in which this issue has been responded to, particularly by the regions of this state, who I believe could have been more forthcoming in trying to work with me and work with Senator Warner and the Appropriations Committee and others involved in this, to try and find a way through this so we could go back to the taxpayers of this state, to the citizens of this state and say, yes, we've had a problem; short term we're finding a way to deal with that problem, long term we're going to look for some solutions that will, hopefully, not lead us down this path again. All I was asking for, all we were asking for is individual client service contracts, so that every client out there, we would know who is to be served, what they were to receive in services, how much it would cost, everybody would know the situation and it would be clear. But all we did in the amendment that was adopted was wipe that out, outside of new clients being added on. And for existing clients there will not be such client contracts. And, in fact, we'll again just basically send the money back to the regions. Now, we have a serious problem in Lancaster County in LOMR. That problem is acute. The other problems in the rest of the areas are bad, but the problem in Lincoln and Lancaster County is worse of all. In fact, it's...

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...it's bordering on a crisis yet again. Even with the money we're talking about here, I wonder how we're going to pull through. And, so I guess I'm not standing up one way or another at this point, because I'm struggling with it still, trying to feel my way through. And I'm anxious to hear the floor debate, because I see these two countervailing concerns. Yes, we want to meet the needs of the mentally